

NDOW 1966

# A Brief Evaluation of the Fishery on the West Fork of the Jarbidge River

## SAMPLING DONE ON ORIGINAL SURVEY IN 1954

<u>Sampling Locations</u>	<u>Trout/mile</u>
Between Fox and Pine Creeks	318
Downstream from Bear Creek Road Junction	424
Between Snowslide Gulch and Dry Gulch	424
Between Sawmill Creek and Dry Gulch	572

Creel census over the past few years indicate that good success is enjoyed by anglers, 3.9 fish per angler hour. When compared to other waters this appears to be quite high. Below are figures for fish per angler hour in 1965 on some of the other waters in the District:

Wildhorse Reservoir-	0.96	S. Fork of the Humboldt-	1.44
Wilson Reservoir-	0.73	Salmon Falls River	2.31
Ruby Marsh-	0.89	Tabor Creek	2.00
Jiggs Reservoir	0.27	Lamoille Creek	1.51

Hatchery reared fish make up at most 20 percent of the anglers catch. Wild trout average around 6.1 inches, whereas hatchery rainbow average 9.5 inches.

The length frequency distribution is as follows:

	<u>4in.</u>	<u>5in.</u>	<u>6in.</u>	<u>7in.</u>	<u>8in.</u>	<u>9in.</u>	<u>10in.</u>	<u>11in.</u>	<u>12in.</u>
Hatchery Fish	0	0	0	0	7	24	22	6	2
Native Fish	8	52	100	60	15	1	1	0	0

Since 1960 seven stream sections have been sampled. One hundred and six trout were captured. Eleven hatchery fish were taken compared to 95 wild trout. The population estimate is 525 trout per mile. No cutthroat or brook trout were recovered which indicates that even with stocking these fish were not able to successfully establish themselves.

The above shows that the trout have increased in numbers since 1954 at 435 per mile to 525 per mile in the early 1960's. Statewide average of a stream the size of the West Fork of the Jarbidge River is 116 fish/mile. This indicates that the Jarbidge contains a much higher population than most streams in Nevada of comparable size. Fish per mile of other streams in our District are listed below.

Bruneau River	50.9	N. F. Humboldt	345.8
Goose Creek	158.4	Jack Creek	198.5
South Fork Humboldt	295.7	Secret Creek	514.8

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